



Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs, Inc.

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Testimony of Morris Nelson Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs October 11, 2007

RE: Assembly Bill 526

My name is Morris Nelson, and I am the Legislative Director for the AWSC, the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs.

On behalf of the AWSC, I thank Rep. Kaufert and Senator Erpenbach for authoring legislation in both houses which will extend for an additional 3 years a nighttime 55-mile-per-hour speed limit for snowmobiles operating on Wisconsin trails.

As is often the case, the AWSC is working in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources to promote safe snowmobiling through AB-526. Although the DNR would prefer to implement a permanent dusk-to-dawn speed limit, together we agree that a 3-year extension of this regulation is a reasonable timeframe to evaluate the full effects of the limit.

The greater goal of this legislation is the reduction of fatalities and injuries resulting from snowmobile operation. Last session, a one-year speed limit trial program was approved by the Legislature and whether directly or indirectly, the result was a drop in snowmobile-related fatalities during this past winter season. However, limited snowfall and poor trail conditions prevented a full evaluation of the speed limit's effects.

In the future, should evidence support a direct link between this speed limit and a reduction in snowmobile-related fatalities, the AWSC will likely move toward a permanent limit. At this time, we ask that you support this cooperative effort by approving Assembly Bill 526.